Investment in Atomic Energy

3127. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal/project to invest more in nuclear energy and to increase share of nuclear energy in the economy's overall energy mix;

(b) if so, the steps taken in detail for above and new project formulated if any State-wise, as on today;

(c) if so, the details including present share of nuclear energy in overall energy mix, State-wise as on day;

(d) if so, whether there is any attempt to opening up nuclear power generation sector for participation by private players; and

(e) if so, the details thereof including private players shown interest to enter nuclear energy sector and action taken.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In addition to the fourteen operating reactors with a capacity of 2770 MWe, nine more reactors (3 at Tamil Nadu, 2 at Rajasthan, 2 at Karnataka and 2 at Maharashtra) with a capacity of 4460 MWe are under construction. Out of these, one Unit *i.e.*, Tarapur Atomic Power Project-4 Tapp-4 (540 MWe) has already been completed and has been connected to the grid on 4.6.2005. With the completion of the other ongoing projects progressively, the capacity will reach 6780 MWe by December 2008 and 7280 MWe by March, 2011. More units are also planned to progressively increase the share of nuclear power. However, no decision has been taken on the location of new sites for setting up new nuclear power projects

(c) The nuclear power is currently competitive with Thermal power at lacations away from coal mines. Accordingly, Nuclear Power Stations/ Projects are set up in six States. The share of nuclear power in these States is:

State	% Share of generation in 2004-05
Rajasthan	18
Karnataka	12

State	% Share of generation in 2004-05
Gujarat	5
Uttar Pradesh	4
Maharashtra	4
Tamil Nadu	3

(d) The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (BHAVINI) are the two public sector companies under the administrative control of the Department of Atomic Energy which are engaged in the setting up, operation and maintenance of Nuclear Power Plants in the country.

The domestic private sector is already contributing in the nuclear power programme as suppliers of major equipment and in execution of large supply-cum-erection packages.

As regards participation in the new projects, the same is presently possible only through the Government Companies.

(e) Larsen & Toubro (L&T), National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC), Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited (BHEL) and Reliance Energy Limited (REL) have, in the past, expressed interest in participation in the nuclear power. However the Department has not received any proposal in this regard.

Selection of new companies for power generation

†3128. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI;
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Thermal Power Corporation Limited is being considered for entrusting the responsibility of increasing power generation in the field of atomic energy in the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereto;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.